

## **Proposed Recommendation to Modify Prior Authorization of Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs)**

### **❑ Purpose**

Prior authorization (PA) of PPIs is intended to promote use of a low-cost PPI that is medically appropriate, safe and therapeutically equivalent for the patient. The use of prior authorization by Wisconsin Medicaid is not a formulary. Under PA, all PPIs remain covered drugs for Wisconsin Medicaid recipients, and all state and federal requirements for coverage of drugs are met through the PA process.

### **❑ Current Prior Authorization for PPIs**

Wisconsin Medicaid currently requires PA for PPIs. Low-cost PPIs that do not require PA include Omeprazole (generic) and Protonix® (pantoprazole).

Currently, an exemption from PA is granted to:

- Allow the continuation of existing, high-cost PPI therapy only if previous therapy using a low-cost PPI has failed; or
- Allow use of high-cost PPI therapy if there are documented side effects or specific drug-drug interactions that must be avoided.

### **❑ Proposed Modification to Prior Authorization for PPIs**

Make Prilosec OTC®, the lowest cost drug in the PPI class, the only PPI not subject to PA. All other PPIs, including generic Omeprazole, would be subject to PA.

- **High-Cost PPI Drugs Subject to PA**

Prilosec® (omeprazole)  
Omeprazole (generic)  
Prevacid® (lansoprazole)  
Protonix® (pantoprazole)  
Aciphex® (rabeprazole)  
Nexium® (esomeprazole)

- **Low-Cost Drugs in PPI class NOT subject to PA**

Prilosec OTC® (omeprazole)

### **❑ Proposed PA Criteria for PPIs**

#### STAT-PA Approval Criteria

The recipient has tried and failed therapy with the low-cost PPI drug.

#### Return Criteria/ Paper PA Criteria

The electronic PA request will be returned with instructions to submit a paper PA request if the provider indicates that a low-cost PPI drug (i.e., Prilosec OTC®) has not been tried. Paper PA requests will be approved if there is documentation of: (a) a serious Prilosec OTC® – drug interaction that cannot be managed with a dosage change; or (b) specific serious side effects that the patient cannot tolerate a low-cost PPI.

#### Denial Criteria

There is no documentation of previous therapeutic failure of Prilosec OTC, and there are no documented side effects or serious drug-drug interactions identified on the paper PA request.

## **Frequently Asked Questions About Prior Authorization for Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs)**

### **Patient Questions**

- Q: I am already using Prilosec OTC®. Must it be prior authorized for me to continue receiving it?  
A: No, Prilosec OTC® does not require prior authorization.
- Q: I am using a PPI other than Prilosec OTC®. Must the drug be prior authorized for me to continue receiving it?  
A: Yes, prior authorization of existing PPI therapy (other than Prilosec OTC®) is required. However, if your pharmacy previously received PA for the PPI you are using, that PPI prior authorization will be continued until the end date.
- Q: Will I need a new prescription order from my physician to continue receiving the PPI I am already taking?  
A: No, your current prescription order is adequate. However, your pharmacy will be required to obtain prior authorization to continue dispensing the drug if the PPI is not Prilosec OTC® unless prior authorization was previously obtained for the PPI.
- Q: How do I obtain prior authorization?  
A: The pharmacy dispensing the PPI obtains prior authorization for you.
- Q: How long will it take for the pharmacy to obtain PA?  
A: PA can usually be obtained while you wait for the prescription to be filled. The pharmacy uses the telephone to request the PA and immediately knows if the drug is covered for you.
- Q: This is my first prescription for a PPI that is not Prilosec OTC®, What do I need to do?  
A: Take the prescription order to your pharmacy or have your doctor call the prescription to the pharmacy. To obtain prior authorization for you, the pharmacist needs to know why Prilosec OTC® is not medically acceptable for you to use. You may inform the pharmacist of the reason, or you may ask that your doctor include the reason with the prescription order when it is written or called in to the pharmacy.
- Q: How often must PA be obtained?  
A: Prior authorization must be obtained each time your drug is changed (unless it is changed to Prilosec OTC®) or at least yearly.
- Q: I am on Medicaid or BadgerCare. What will this change mean for me?  
A: Medicaid and BadgerCare cover over-the-counter drugs. The co-pay for over-the-counter drugs, including Prilosec OTC®, is \$0.50.
- Q: I am on SeniorCare. What will this change mean for me?  
A: Currently, Omeprazole and Protonix® do not require PA. The SeniorCare co-pay is \$5 for generic Omeprazole and \$15 for the brand name drug, Protonix®. Since SeniorCare does not cover over-the-counter drugs, participants can obtain Prilosec on an over-the-counter basis. Currently, a one-month supply of Prilosec OTC® is available for approximately \$16.42.

### **Prescriber Questions**

- Q: Do all PPIs require prior authorization?  
A: No, Prilosec OTC® does not require prior authorization. All other PPI drugs require PA.

- Q: I have determined that a patient requires PPI therapy other than Prilosec OTC®. How do I obtain PA?  
A: The pharmacy dispensing the drug will obtain PA. You should provide information to the pharmacist indicating why Prilosec OTC® is not medically appropriate for this patient, e.g., previous therapeutic failure of Prilosec OTC®, previous side effects or drug-drug interaction(s) with another drug this patient is taking.
- Q: What medical reasons will result in PA approval for a PPI other than Prilosec OTC®?  
A: PA approval will be granted for previous therapeutic failure of Prilosec OTC®, previous side effects with Prilosec OTC®, or drug-drug interaction(s) with another drug this patient is taking. The pharmacy will be required to submit a paper PA documenting the specific side effects experienced and/or the specific drug-drug interaction issue with Prilosec OTC®.
- Q: I wish to change a patient from Aciphex to Prevacid. Is PA required?  
A: Yes, all PPI therapy other than Prilosec OTC® requires prior authorization. You should provide information to the pharmacy indicating why Prilosec OTC® is not medically appropriate for this patient.

### **Pharmacy Questions**

- Q: The patient is using Protonix. Is PA required?  
A: Yes, all PPI therapy other than Prilosec OTC® requires prior authorization.
- Q: I submitted a PA request for a high-cost PPI based on information provided by the physician indicating the patient has tried and failed on Prilosec OTC® therapy. The PA was not approved because another pharmacy already has a PA for a different PPI. What do I do?  
A: Obtain approval from the patient to request an end-date for the other PA. Contact the EDS STAT-PA help desk and request that the previous PA be end-dated.
- Q: My pharmacy already has a PA for a high-cost PPI that does not expire until April 1, 2003. Must I obtain a new PA to continue dispensing and billing prescriptions using that PA number?  
A: No, you may continue dispensing and billing the approved drug using that PA number.
- Q: I have a prescription order for a high-cost PPI. However, I do not know if Prilosec OTC® has been tried without success, or if there is a drug-drug interaction the doctor is trying to avoid. What do I do?  
A: You may ask the patient to verify if Prilosec OTC® was tried without success. If the answer is “no” I have not tried Prilosec OTC®, you may need to contact the prescriber to determine why Prilosec OTC® is not acceptable medically. You will be required to document the reason(s) if you submit a paper PA request.